WE CLAIM:

1.   A computer-implemented method of managing print job costs, the method comprising the steps of:

providing an electronic print job request, the print job request having a
5   set of attributes;

displaying the set of attributes;

prior to printing the print job, calculating a cost of the electronic print job using the set of attributes; and

displaying the calculated cost.
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2.   The method of claim 1, wherein the cost of the electronic print job includes a cost of printing.

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3.   The method of claim 2, wherein the cost includes estimated consumables cost based on a set of consumable factors.

20   4.   The method of claim 3, wherein the consumable factors include one or more of media cost, binding material cost, and printer technology cost.

5.   The method of claim 1, wherein the cost of the electronic print
25   job includes a cost of mailing.

6.   The method of claim 5, wherein the cost includes an estimated postage cost based on a set of postage determining factors.

7.   The method of claim 6, wherein the postage determining factors include one or more of media weight, printer technology, print format, and

5   binding options.

8.   The method of claim 1, further comprising:

presenting a menu of business rules;

10   receiving a selection of a business rule;

modifying the set of attributes to comply with the selected business rule;

re-calculating the cost of the electronic print job using the modified set of attributes; and

displaying the re-calculated cost.

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9.   The method of claim 8, further comprising:

receiving a selection of an override of one or more attributes of the modified set of attributes;

20   re-calculating the cost of the electronic print job using the selected override of the modified set of attributes; and

displaying the newly re-calculated cost.

25   10.   The method of claim 1, further comprising:

receiving a selection of an override of one or more attributes of the modified set of attributes;

re-calculating the cost of the electronic print job using the selected override of the modified set of attributes; and

displaying the newly re-calculated cost.

11.   A computer-implemented method of managing print job postage

5   costs, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving an electronic print job request, the print job having a set of attributes;

calculating a preliminary cost of the print job using the set of attributes;

presenting a menu of business rules;

10   receiving a selection of one of the business rules;

adjusting the set of attributes in response to the selection of one of the business rules; and

calculating a final cost based on the adjusted set of attributes.

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12.   The method of claim 11, which further comprises displaying the final cost.

20   13.   A program storage device readable by a processor, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the processor to perform method steps for managing print job costs, the method steps comprising:

providing an electronic print job request, the print job request having a set of attributes;

25   displaying the set of attributes;

prior to printing the print job, calculating a cost of the electronic print job using the set of attributes; and

displaying the calculated cost.

14.   The program storage device of claim 13, wherein the method further comprising:

presenting a menu of business rules;

receiving a selection of a business rule;

5   modifying the set of attributes to comply with the selected business rule;

re-calculating the cost of the electronic print job using the modified set of attributes; and

displaying the re-calculated cost.

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15.   The program storage device of claim 14, wherein the method further comprising:

receiving a selection of an override of one or more attributes of the modified set of attributes;

15   re-calculating the cost of the electronic print job using the selected override of the modified set of attributes; and

displaying the newly re-calculated cost.

16.   The program storage device of claim 14, further comprising:

receiving a selection of an override of one or more attributes of the modified set of attributes;

re-calculating the cost of the electronic print job using the selected

5   override of the modified set of attributes; and

displaying the newly re-calculated cost.

17.   A program storage device readable by a processor, tangibly

10   embodying a program of instructions executable by the processor to perform method steps for managing print job costs, the method steps comprising:

receiving an electronic print job request, the print job having a set of attributes;

calculating a preliminary cost of the print job using the set of attributes;

15   presenting a menu of business rules;

receiving a selection of one of the business rules;

adjusting the set of attributes in response to the selection of one of the business rules; and

calculating a final cost based on the adjusted set of attributes.

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18.   The program storage device of claim 17, which further comprises displaying the final cost.

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